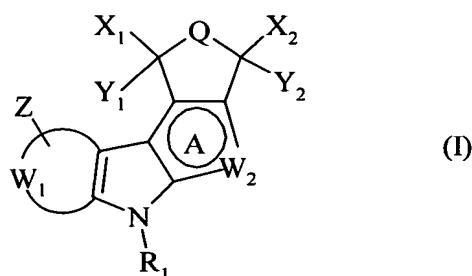


CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-21 (CANCELED)

22- (NEW) A compound selected from those of formula (I):

wherein:

- **A** represents a saturated or partially or fully unsaturated 6 membered ring, wherein the unsaturation optionally confers aromaticity on the ring,

- **Z** represents one or more identical or different groups of formula U-V wherein:

- ✓ **U** represents a single bond, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylene optionally substituted by one or more identical or different groups selected from halogen and hydroxy and/or optionally containing one or more unsaturated bonds,

- ✓ **V** represents a group selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, azido, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, aryloxy, aryl(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy in which the alkoxy radical may be linear or branched, formyl, carboxy, aminocarbonyl, NR₃R₄, -C(O)-T₁, -C(O)-NR₃-T₁, -NR₃-C(O)-T₁, -O-C(O)-T₁, -C(O)-O-T₁, -O-T₂-NR₃R₄, -O-T₂-OR₃, -O-T₂-CO₂R₃, -NR₃-T₂-NR₃R₄, -NR₃-T₂-OR₃, -NR₃-T₂-CO₂R₃, and -S(O)_t-R₃,

wherein:

- ⇒ R₃ and R₄, which may be identical or different, each represents a group selected from hydrogen, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, or

R₃+R₄ together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, form a saturated monocyclic

or bicyclic heterocycle that has from 5 to 10 ring atoms, and which optionally contains in the ring system a second hetero atom selected from oxygen and nitrogen, and which is optionally substituted by a group selected from linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, amino, linear or branched mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched,

⇒ T₁ represents a group selected from linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl which may be optionally substituted by a group selected from -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -CO₂R₃, -C(O)R₃ and -C(O)NR₃R₄ wherein R₃ and R₄ are as defined hereinbefore; aryl, and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched; or T₁ represents linear or branched (C₂-C₆)alkenyl optionally substituted by a group selected from -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -CO₂R₃, -C(O)R₃ and -C(O)NR₃R₄ wherein R₃ and R₄ are as defined hereinbefore,

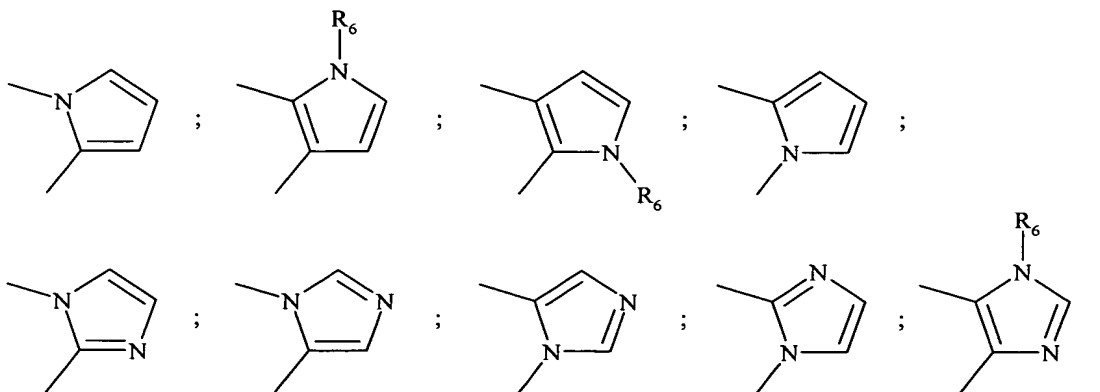
⇒ T₂ represents linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylene,

⇒ t represents integer from 0 to 2 inclusive,

or Z represents methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy,

• W₁, together with the carbon atoms to which it is bonded, represents phenyl or pyridyl,

• W₂ represents a group selected from:



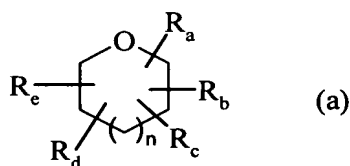
wherein R₆ represents a group selected from hydrogen, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, cycloalkyl,

cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -O-T₂-NR₃R₄, -NR₃-T₂-NR₃R₄, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkylamino, di((C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkyl)amino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched, -C(O)-R₃ and -NH-C(O)-R₃; or R₆ represents linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylene substituted by one or more identical or different groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -CO₂R₃, -C(O)R₃, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkylamino, di((C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkyl)amino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched, and -C(O)-NHR₃, R₃, R₄ and T₂ being as defined hereinbefore,

- X₁ represents a group selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mercapto and linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylthio,
- Y₁ represents hydrogen, or
- X₁ and Y₁, with the carbon atom carrying them, form carbonyl or thiocarbonyl,

- X₂ represents a group selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mercapto and linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylthio,
- Y₂ represents hydrogen, or
- X₂ and Y₂, with the carbon atom carrying them, form carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group,

- R₁ represents a group selected from hydrogen, a linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl which may be optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkoxy or NR₃R₄, the groups R₃ and R₄ being as defined hereinbefore; or R₁ represents a group of formula C(O)-O-T₃ wherein T₃ represents a group selected from linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched; or R₁ represents a group of formula (a):



wherein:

- 5 ✓ **R_a, R_b, R_c and R_d**, which may be identical or different, each represents, independently of the others, a bond or a group selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, aryloxy, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkoxy in which the alkoxy moiety may be linear or branched, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, aryl, -NR₃R₄ wherein R₃ and R₄ are as defined hereinbefore, azido, -N=NR₃ (wherein R₃ is as defined hereinbefore), and -O-C(O)-R₅ wherein R₅ represents linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched); or R₅ represents aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl,
- 10 ✓ **R_e** represents methylene (H₂C=) or a group of the formula -U₁-R_a wherein U₁ represents single bond, methylene and R_a is as defined hereinbefore,
- ✓ **n** is 0 or 1,

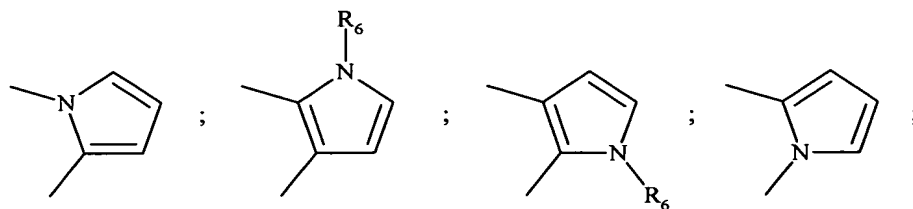
15 it being understood that the group of formula (a) is bonded to the nitrogen atom by R_a, R_b, R_c, R_d or R_e,

- **Q** represents a group selected from oxygen, NR₂ wherein R₂ represents a group selected from hydrogen, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl in which the alkyl moiety may be linear or branched, -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -O-T₂-NR₃R₄, -NR₃-T₂-NR₃R₄, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkylamino, di((C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkyl)amino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched, -C(O)-R₃ and -NH-C(O)-R₃; or R₂ represents linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkylene substituted by one or more identical or different groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, -OR₃, -NR₃R₄, -CO₂R₃, -C(O)R₃, linear or branched (C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkylamino, di((C₁-C₆)hydroxyalkyl)amino in which the alkyl moieties may be linear or branched, and -C(O)-NHR₃, R₃, R₄ and T₂ being as defined hereinbefore,
- 20
- 25

it being understood that :

- 30 when W₁, together with the carbon atoms to which it is bonded, represents an unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted by bromine, R₁ represents a group selected from hydrogen,

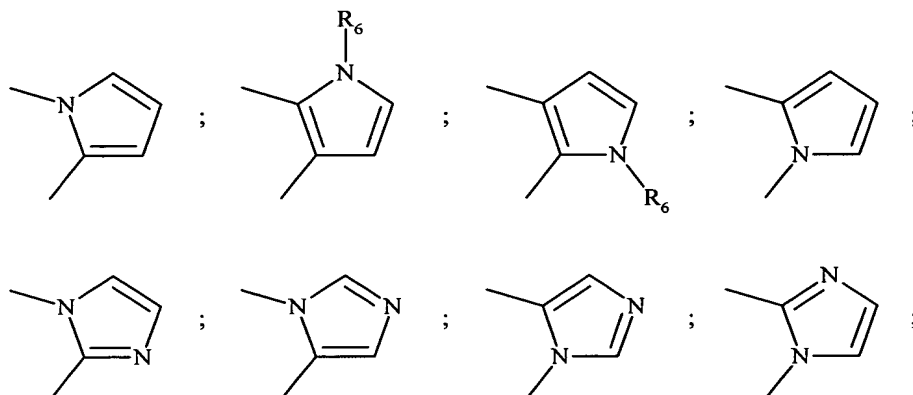
and glucopyranosyl or (2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl-glucopyranosyl) and, R_2 represents hydrogen, then W_2 represents a group selected from:



wherein R_6 is as defined hereinbefore,

5

when W_1 , together with the carbon atoms to which it is bonded, represents an unsubstituted phenyl, R_1 represents hydrogen and R_2 represents methyl, then W_2 represents a group selected from:



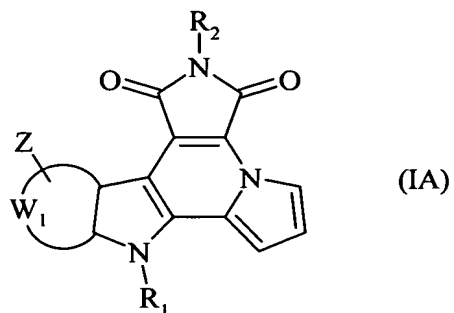
10 wherein R_6 is as defined hereinbefore,

and aryl may be a phenyl, naphthyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, indenyl or indanyl group, each of those groups optionally being substituted by one or more identical or different substituents selected from halogen, linear or branched (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, linear or branched (C_1 - C_6)trihaloalkyl, hydroxy, linear or branched (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, and NR_3R_4 ,
15 wherein R_3 and R_4 are as defined hereinbefore.

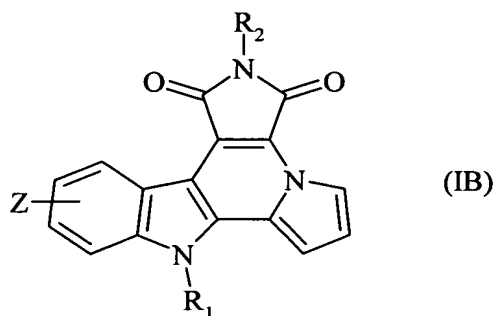
23- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, wherein X_1 and Y_1 , with the carbon atom carrying them, together form carbonyl, and X_2 and Y_2 , with the carbon atom carrying them, together form carbonyl.

24- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, wherein Q represents --NR_2 .

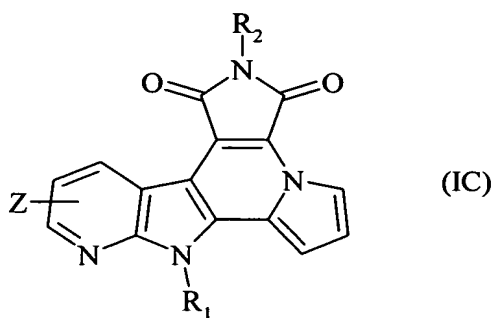
25- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IA):



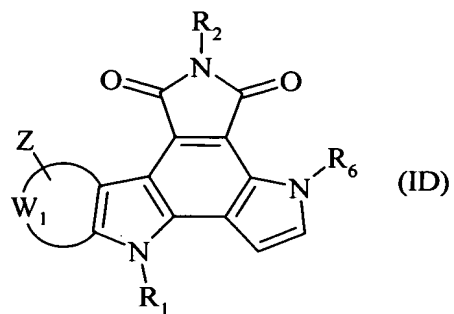
5 **26-** (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IB):



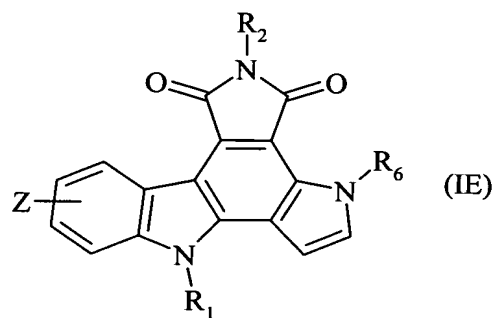
27- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IC):



28- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (ID):

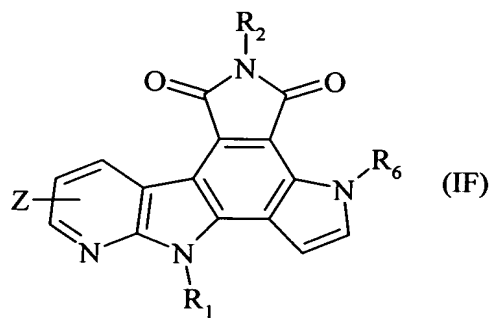


29- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IE):

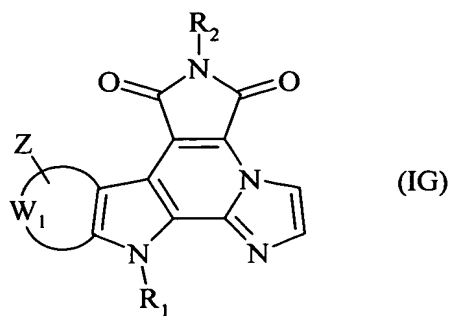


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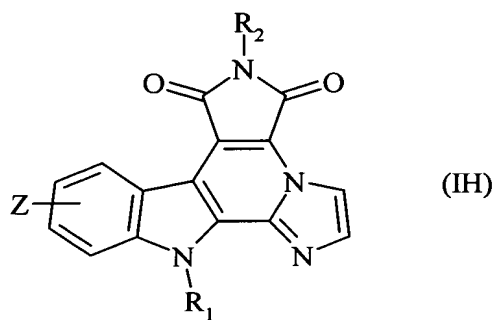
30- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IF):



31- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IG):

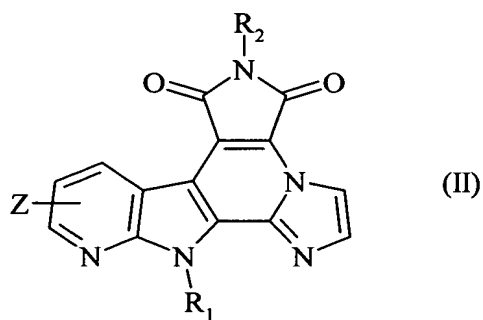


32- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IH):

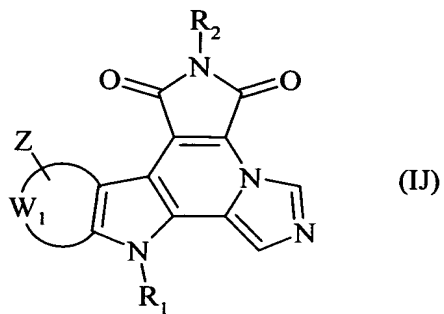


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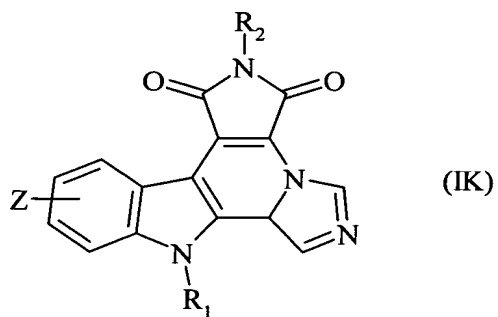
33- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (II):



34- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IJ):

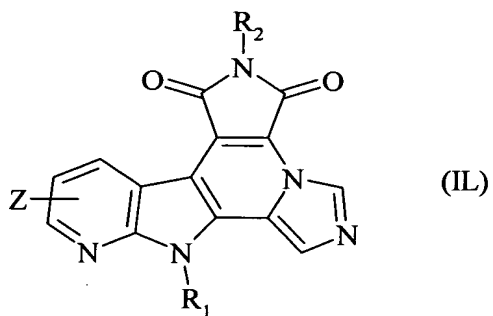


35- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IK):

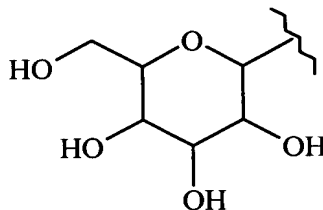


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36- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, which is a compound of formula (IL):



37- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, wherein R₁ represents hydrogen, C(O)-O-T₃ wherein T₃ represents linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl or a glucopyranosyl group of formula:



5 **38-** (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, wherein R₂ represents hydrogen or linear or branched (C₁-C₆) alkyl.

39- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22, wherein R₆ represents hydrogen.

40- (NEW) A compound of Claim 22 which is selected from:

- 10 ➤ pyrrolo[3',4':5,6]indolizino[8,7-b]indole-1,3[2*H*,8*H*]-dione,
➤ 11-bromopyrrolo[3',4':5,6]indolizino[8,7-b]indole-1,3[2*H*,8*H*]-dione,
➤ 11-chloropyrrolo[3',4':5,6]indolizino[8,7-b]indole-1,3[2*H*,8*H*]-dione, and
➤ imidazo[2,1':6,1]pyrrolo[3',4':4,5]pyrido[2,3-b]indole-1,3(2*H*,8*H*)-dione.

15 **41-** A method for treating a living animal body, including a human, afflicted with cancer comprising the step of administering to the living body, including a human an amount of a compound of Claim 22, which is effective for alleviation of cancer

42- A pharmaceutical composition useful in treating cancer comprising as active principle an effective amount of a compound of Claim 22, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or vehicles.